



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Cheryl Nabahe, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1201 Bird Center Drive,
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the West of Devers Upgrade Project, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California (CEQ# 20160182)

Dear Ms. Nabahe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under § 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and provided comments to the Bureau of Land Management on September 18, 2015. We rated all three of the action alternatives analyzed in the DEIS as *Lack of Objections (LO)*. Our comments included recommendations to ensure compliance with Clean Water Act Section 404 and EPA's general conformity regulations.

We were pleased to note that the FEIS clarifies potential impacts to wetlands, includes a planning level assessment of aquatic resources and discusses how compliance with Clean Water Act Section 404 will be achieved. The EPA also appreciates the supplemental information to clarify the applicability of general conformity to the project, as well as the added reference to the Council on Environmental Quality's guidance on addressing greenhouse gas emissions in NEPA documents. Please note the guidance has been finalized and can be found at:

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/documents/nepa_final_ghg_guidance.pdf.

Lastly, the EPA commends the BLM for modifying the Proposed Action by adopting the environmentally preferable segments from each of the three action alternatives. These modifications should result in reduced impacts to sensitive environmental and cultural resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 947-4161 or contact Scott Sysum, the lead reviewer for this project. Scott can be reached at (415) 972-3742 or sysum.scott@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

for 
Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Section